

Bandwagon

MARCH, 1950

Vol. 5—No. 2

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UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE . . .

you will receive this four page magazine every other month and the regular size Bandwagon the other months. This is being done rather than to issue bi-monthly.

Bette Leonard In Hospital

Bette Leonard, hard working president of the Circus Historical Society submitted to surgery, March 20th, at the Wesley Hospital in Wichita, Kansas. This magazine joins members of C. H. S., Circus Fans and Circus Troupers from all corners of the earth in wishing her speedy recovery. Members of C. H. S. sent Mrs. Leonard flowers.

Ed Hillhouse, of Chillicothe, Ohio, visited friends on the Polack Bros. Western Unit during their stand in Cincinnati.

Eddie Jackson was recently entertained by Dr. Harrison Powers in South Bend, Ind.

SAWDUST TRAIL IS PUBLISHED BY TEDD MEYER

"Sawdust Trail" a complete photo history of the 1949 Cole Bros. Circus has made its appearance and is a grand booklet in every respect. Tedd Meyer is the publisher and was with Cole Bros. Circus last season. The booklet contains seventy-five fine photographs, many by Johnny Vogelsang, James McRoberts and Otto Scheiman, and also carries the 1949 official route. The booklet sells for \$1.50 and can be secured from Circus Enterprises, 313 East St., Iola, Kansas.

The Walter L. Main Tent of C.F.A. was raised at Uhrichsville, Ohio, on March 12th, following a banquet at Miller's Restaurant. Floyd L. McClintock was in charge of reservations.

CORRECTION

We wish to call your attention to an error in the Charlie Duble article of the Jan.-Feb. issue. On page 6, line 28, should have read March, 1916, instead of March, 1913.

Harry M. Simpson,
"Bandwagon,"
Camden, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Simpson:

The January and February issue of your little "Bandwagon" gave me a thrill. Your reprint of "Early Days of the Circus," on Page 5 and carried over to page 8, has a line, "Dr. Whitbeck was called in to dress Mr. White's wounds . . ." The "Dr. Whitbeck" referred to was a great-uncle of my father's.

Sincerely,

Frank Whitbeck.

Editor's Note—We are glad that Mr. Whitbeck, owner of the famed MGM Elephants, Sally, Happy and Quennie, enjoyed the article.

C. H. S. DIRECTORS

Results from several of the Circus Historical Society divisions, election of directors have been reported as follows:

Div. 1—Dr. Harrison Powers and Clyde Wixom.

Div. 5—William Kasiska and J. A. Havirland.

Div. 6—Joe Fleming.

Div. 7—Marvin Kreiger, Jr.

Div. 8—Joseph Shields.

Div. 9—Ed. Cripps.

Div. 10—E. F. Titus.

NOTES FROM MAINE

C.H.S. members W. Fulton White, Paul Roberge, George Perkins and Vice-Pres. Maurice J. Allaire were guests of the Pepperell Foremans' Club monthly dinner held at Pepperell Hall, Biddeford, Maine, on Feb. 7, 1950. The setting of this meeting was circus night. The music was arranged by records with Merle Evan's Circus Band throughout the dinner.

Special guest of the evening was Father Ed. Sullivan, Chaplain of the C.F.A., who gave a very effective talk on the circus and gave a complete movie show on the circus from Sarasota to Boston and Under Canvas. These were both in color and in black and white. Father Ed. Sullivan was presented with a woolen blanket made by the Pepperell Mills of Biddeford, Maine. Paul Roberge who was responsible for the successful meeting is a member of the Foremans' Club.

Mike Piccolo writes that Mills Bros. 3-Ring Circus have inked Uniontown, Pa., on Saturday, May 6th.

Tige Hale has announced that his Gold Medal Circus Band will be with Dale's Bros. Circus this season.

Tom Parkinson has accepted a position with THE BILLBOARD and will have charge of the Circus department of "The Showman's Bible" at the Chicago office.

The Bandwagon

News and Activities of the
CIRCUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Founded in 1939

HARRY M. SIMPSON.....EDITOR

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Div. 1—Mich., Ohio, Ind.—Dr. Harrison Powers, Clyde Wixom.
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Div. 3—N. J., N. Y., Pa., Va., W. Va., Ky.—John VanMatre, H. L. Symons.
Div. 4—N. C., S. C., Ga., Ala., Fla., Miss., Tenn., Ark., La.—Eddie Jackson.
Div. 5—Wisc., Ill., Minn., Iowa, Mo.—William Kasiska, J. A. Havirland.
Div. 6—N. Dak., S. Dak., Nebr., Kansas, Okla., Texa.—Joe Fleming.
Div. 7—Mont., Idaho, Wyo., Colo., N. M., Nevada, Utah, Ariz.—Marvin Kreiger, Jr.
Div. 8—Wash., Oregon, Calif.—Joseph Shields.
Div. 9—Canada—Edward Cripps.
Div. 10—South America and England—E. Titus.

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WISCONSIN NOTES

Henry C. Moeller, of Baraboo, Wisc., was a recent visitor in Florida. Mr. Moeller was a former builder of circus parade wagons for Ringling Bros. and other Circuses.

Henry Ringling, Jr. has started action against the Rockland Oil Co. for partition of their respec-

tive interests in the Al. Ringling Theatre here, including furnishings, equipment and other assets. Henry Ringling owns three-fourths of the theatre, having acquired the one-fourth interest of Mrs. Charles Ringling and the one-fourth interest of Mrs. James Haley some years ago. The state of Florida had an interest in the John Ringling estate and in liquidating the remaining assets, the one-fourth interest in the theatre was transferred to Ringling Enterprises, Inc. Later the interest in the theatre was transferred to the oil company. The matter will be heard in the Circuit Court in Baraboo.

John M. Kelley, Sr., recently addressed the Sauk City Men's Club on some of his experiences with the circus.

Charles Kitto reports the showing of Joe Taggart's (miniature) Combined Shows of Rockford, Ill., the week of Feb. 13, in McNeany's Dept. Store—and the Ayres & Kathryn Davies Indoor Circus in the Beloit College Field House, Beloit, Wis., Feb. 20.

Merle Evans and Ayres & Kathryn Davies Circus appeared on a joint bill at the Fond du Lac, Wis., High School on Feb. 23. Ed. Dusty Rhoades and Cliff Cowan of Oshkosh, caught the Davies performance at Menasha on Feb. 25.

John Heidl of Oshkosh, saw the Hamid-Morton Shrine Circus the 25th in Milwaukee—reported a sell-out despite the cold weather.

Members of the Circus Historical Society extend sympathy to Eddie Jackson on the loss of his sister, Mrs. Elizabeth (Jackson) Latta. Funeral services were held February 24, at Goshen, Ind.

In 1895 the Buffalo Bill Wild West Show played 131 cities in 190 days. Draft stock, wagons and rolling stock belonged to James A. Bailey and W. W. Cole both of whom received a share of the profits. They also supplied advance men, bill posters, and others.

LONE FREIGHT CAR CAUSES BIG DELAY

Season 1923: One lone freight car on the Valley Branch of the N. Y. Central line delayed thousands of persons in Buffalo for two hours in seeing the Barnum & Bailey circus. The show slated to begin at 2 this afternoon did not start until four. The circus was in Jamestown on Tuesday loading there early this morning for Buffalo. The first section of the circus train reached Dunkirk on schedule time, but three other sections following a Valley branch freight were halted for three hours near Lily Dale because a freight car was derailed early this morning. It took three hours to get the track cleared before the other circus train sections could proceed on their trip. The last section reached here at 9:30 this morning and it was some time before all were transferred to the main line.

1885—Bangor, Me., July 6th —Barnum's circus train collided with another train on the Mt. Desert road Saturday morning. John Shaughnessy, of Woolsocket, R.I., cook of the circus, had a leg broken, and two other employees were badly hurt, and a horse killed. Two railroad accidents prior to this have hap-

pened to the circus since it struck Maine.

The above two items are reproduced from newspaper clippings in the file of Frank A. Norton, CHS.

CIRCUS ROUTES

In the Billboard issue of May 5th, 1900, listed these circuses: Buckskin Ben's Wild West; Forepaugh & Sells Bros.; Gollmar Bros., (wagon show); Harris Nickel Plate Show; Walter J. McDonald's Show; Norries & Rowe Show; Rice & Davis Show; Ringling Bros. Show; Great Wallace Shows, and Welsh Bros. Shows.

This item appeared in the Billboard—issue of Nov. 19, 1904—"While it would take away from the circus one of its chief glories, it is not beyond the pale of possibility that within another decade some enterprising manager will introduce an automobile show, doing away with horses altogether."—Just think what we have seen roll by on trucks the last 20 years.

Both items sent in by C. E. Duble.

CLYDE BEATTY OPENS NEW SEASON

Clyde Beatty Circus opened their 1950 season in El Monte, California, on Monday, March 20. It was a gala day—featured by an old fashioned Circus Parade. The El Monte Chamber of Commerce got behind the idea—and shoved it along in great style. All civic organizations participated in the celebration, as well as groups from surrounding towns. Your secretary received an invitation to ride in the parade, and no one knows just how sorry he was that he could not get there for the opening. But he sure did appreciate being asked, and thanks to the El Monte Chamber of Commerce for the invite.

Andrew Wachter
P. O. Box 423
Greensboro, N. C.

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